

## Chapter 8

# Changed Circumstances

Water transfers such as those being anticipated and implemented for EWA water acquisitions are relatively new concepts for California's overall water management strategies. Reclamation, DWR, and other California water agencies (agriculture and municipal) continue to assess and refine transfer mechanisms and policies necessary to address numerous environmental and social issues related to the transfers. It is expected that as the EWA water transfer program continues to mature over the next 4 years, project implementation will identify effects (adverse and beneficial) currently not anticipated. These effects could adversely affect covered species or their NCCP habitats necessitating changes to the EWA water acquisition/management strategies included in the Proposed Action. At present the magnitude and nature of such changes is not readily predictable due to the lack of long-term data related to transfer programs.

Species and habitat responses to water asset management actions will be documented through monitoring and adaptive management activities (see Section 7). This documentation will allow USFWS, NOAA Fisheries, and CDFG, in consultation with other CALFED agencies, to determine whether NCCP community and covered species goals and prescriptions should be modified. If a given species or suite of species responds well to EWA asset management actions, priority of management activities may be shifted to other species or habitats, and/or species or habitat prescriptions may be subject to modification.